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UNCLAS THE HAGUE 002909

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

FROM AMBASSADOR SOBEL TO DEPUTY SECRETARY ARMITAGE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL KCRM PHUM KWMN NL

SUBJECT: MEASURABLE PROGRESS ON DUTCH TIP EFFORTS

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 2741

CONTAINS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION THROUGHOUT.
PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY.

¶11. MR. SECRETARY: FIVE MONTHS OF FOCUSED ATTENTION AND INTENSIVE G/TIP, EMBASSY AND DUTCH EFFORTS HAVE PRODUCED TANGIBLE RESULTS (REFTEL). THE RECORD DEMONSTRATES DUTCH COMMITMENT AND CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS IN FIGHTING THE TRAFFICKING PROBLEM IN THE NETHERLANDS. THE EXTENT OF THE DUTCH TIP EFFORT IN THIS SHORT PERIOD OF TIME IS BETTER THAN PREDICTED - ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE STRONG DUTCH SENSE OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY/RIGHT TO SET THEIR OWN TIP PRIORITIES WE RECEIVED WHEN AMB. MILLER DELIVERED THE BENCHMARKS. THANK YOU FOR SENDING HIM HERE - YOUR PHONE CALL WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOT AND AMB. MILLER'S PARTICIPATION IN THE JUNE 7 MEETING REALLY GAVE THE DUTCH A JOLT THAT WE CAPITALIZED ON WITH G/TIP SUPPORT.

¶12. IN OUR AUGUST MEETING, I PROMISED YOU FACTS NECESSARY FOR AN OBJECTIVE MID-TERM EVALUATION OF DUTCH PROGRESS IN FIGHTING TRAFFICKING. WELL, THE FACTS ARE IN. AS WE REQUESTED, THE DUTCH IDENTIFIED AND ASSISTED MORE VICTIMS THAN LAST YEAR, SIGNIFICANTLY EXCEEDING THE LEVELS WE SET FOR THEM. THEIR AWARENESS AND INFORMATION EFFORTS REACHED APPROXIMATELY 15,000 PROSTITUTES AND CLIENTS IN THE AMSTERDAM AREA. IN ADDITION, TIP INFORMATION WAS BROADCAST TO THE PUBLIC. THE DUTCH ALSO DISTRIBUTED TIP BROCHURES TO POLICE DISTRICTS, SHELTERS AND NGOS FOR DISSEMINATION TO POSSIBLE TIP VICTIMS. THE GOVERNMENT REVISED AND EXPANDED TIP TRAINING FOR POLICE, JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS, AND IT FUNDED A PROGRAM TO FIGHT TIP IN THE ANTILLES.

¶13. THE DUTCH DID NOT ATTACK EVERY BENCHMARK THE SAME WAY WE WOULD HAVE, BUT THEY MADE SERIOUS EFFORTS WITH APPRECIABLE PROGRESS IN EACH BENCHMARK AREA. FOR EXAMPLE, THE DUTCH DECIDED TO SCREEN FOR TIP VICTIMS IN THE AMSTERDAM RED LIGHT DISTRICT "AT THE STREET LEVEL, NOT AT THE PAPER LEVEL," WHICH AMB. MILLER AND JUSTICE DONNER AGREED WAS THE BEST APPROACH. INSTEAD OF SENDING BUREAUCRATS WITH CLIP BOARDS TO CONDUCT A CENSUS-TYPE SURVEY, THE DUTCH REPEATEDLY SEND SPECIALLY TRAINED POLICE WITH STREET SAVVY UNANNOUNCED AT RANDOM TIMES TO CHECK ALL AMSTERDAM BROTHELS FOR TIP VICTIMS AND SITUATIONS. LIKEWISE, THE DUTCH ARE TRYING DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO THEIR INFORMATION/AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS BESIDES JUST DISTRIBUTING TIP PAMPHLETS. THE TIP HOTLINE NUMBER IS POSTED ON WEBSITES USED BY SEX INDUSTRY CLIENTS. TELEVISION VIEWERS IN THE NETHERLANDS ARE SEEING "TIP SPOTS" WITH THE TIP HOTLINE NUMBER ON TV, AND SOON, THE MOST AT RISK GROUP, THE YOUNG, WILL SEE A VIDEO ON TIP JOINTLY PRODUCED BY A GOVERNMENT-FUNDED NGO AND MTV.

¶14. WE SHOULD NOT IGNORE WHAT THE DUTCH ARE DOING ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE. THEY MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS ON THEIR OWN NATIONAL TIP PRIORITIES, ESPECIALLY PROTECTING MINORS AGAINST TRAFFICKING AND ABUSE BY SEXUAL PREDATORS AND CLEANING UP THE ESCORT INDUSTRY. THESE FACTS ARE SIGNIFICANT SINCE THE TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTING MANY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-TIP MEASURES DOES NOT CULMINATE UNTIL JANUARY 2005. THEY ARE ALSO ATTACKING TIP INTERNATIONALLY, PROVIDING NEARLY 2 MILLION EUROS TO IOM AND OSCE VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN THE BALKANS.

¶15. DUTCH PERFORMANCE ON TIP WILL LIKELY CONTINUE TO IMPROVE. THE GOVERNMENT WILL PRESENT A NATIONAL TIP ACTION PLAN TO PARLIAMENT IN DECEMBER, INCORPORATING THE NATIONAL RAPPORTEUR'S RECOMMENDATIONS. OUR ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT, WITH STRONG G/TIP SUPPORT, HAS HELPED IDENTIFY AREAS THEY ARE NOW INCLUDING IN THAT PLAN. THEY ARE ALREADY TALKING TO US ABOUT SPEEDING UP THE COMPIRATION OF STATISTICS. WE CONTINUE TO MONITOR THEIR INITIATIVES AND PUSH THEM TO IMPROVE VICTIM IDENTIFICATION EFFORTS AND EXPAND OUTREACH.

¶16. SINCE YOUR INITIAL DECISION TO PLACE THE NETHERLANDS ON TIER ONE, ALL WE HAVE SEEN IS IMPROVEMENTS IN THE WAY THE DUTCH ATTACK THE TIP PROBLEM HERE: NEW INITIATIVES, MORE VICTIMS IDENTIFIED, INNOVATIVE OUTREACH EFFORTS, INCREASED FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL ANTI-TIP PROGRAMS. THERE HAS BEEN NO BACKSLIDING, ONLY FORWARD MOVEMENT WITH CONCRETE PROPOSALS, SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS AND MEASURABLE RESULTS.

SOBEL